



Banyule BUG Newsletter

July
2022

Contents

- 1 Two views about cycling
- 2 P.M. Bamboo Bike
- 3 Greensbourough Monty Link
- 4 Wheely Interesting
- 5 Plenty River trail
- 6 Subs are due

Our thanks to the Office of Anthony Carbines MP, state member for Ivanhoe, for their support in providing the photocopying facilities for this newsletter.

Leave cars at home', says Ford

You know you are on a winner when your major competitors start reaching for the white flag and ask you to take the bike and leave the car at home.

The car companies get it. Once dominant, with the car king of the road, they are now accepting the new reality: the private car has its place but that place is well down the totem pole of road users.

Ford Europe has just launched a new campaign call Park the Car. Yes, they want you to leave the car parked at home in the garage at least one day a week.

The bike image above is from their promotional material.

Accord to the President of Ford Europe, Steward Rowley, it is probably the last thing many people would expect from an auto maker.

"Driving responsibly is no longer just about safety. It's also about caring for our environment and our health – and walking or cycling once a day, active travel, can bring about significant change.

Read the rest of this very interesting article here. ([link](#))

Brakes on city bike lanes after backlash

The City of Melbourne will stop installing separate bike lanes ([link](#)) in the CBD for the rest of the year after a backlash from businesses and residents. About 19 kilometres of protected bike lanes have been built in and around the city centre over the past two years, and a further 71 kilometres are planned by 2030. But some traders and delivery drivers say they increase congestion and make it difficult to park.

Lord Mayor Sally Capp said bike lanes take up just 1 per cent of the city's total road space and there are 50 roads leading into the city for cars, but conceded the council needed to improve its communications about the alterations. A council spokesperson said it would now prioritise bike lane upgrades on popular corridors into the city including Arden Street, Macaulay Road and Royal Parade.

By the numbers: 45 per cent of people use public transport to get to the city, 41 per cent come by car, 9 per cent walk and 4 per cent ride a bike, according to planning firm Urbis. Car traffic is at 94 per cent of pre-pandemic levels, compared to 70 per cent for bikes and e-scooters, and 62 per cent for public transport patronage.

From The Age online 3.6.2022

New bicycle repair stations in Banyule

We have installed repair stations catering for bike riders at 3 new locations:

- Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre, Ivanhoe
- Ford Park, Bellfield



- Macleod Railway Reserve, Macleod

These join the existing bike repair stations at Malahang Reserve and outside the Possum Hollow Playground on the Main Yarra Trail.

The repair stations include a pump and basic tools to help you complete minor maintenance on your bike.

Important club dates

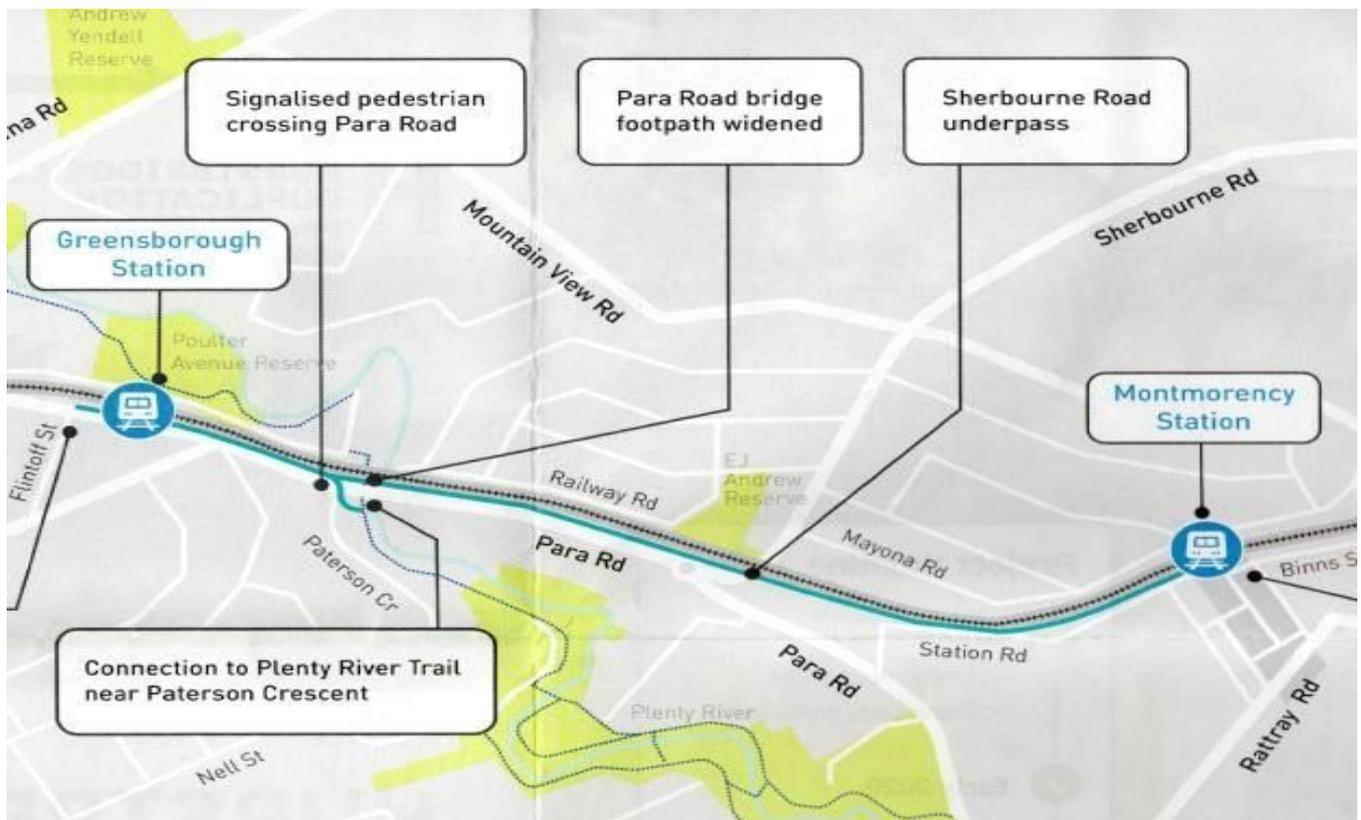
Club Dinners 2022

Tuesday 12th July, Tuesday 13th September @ Godfathers Restaurant,
Sherbourne Road, Briar Hill

Tuesday 25th October 2022 - Annual BBUG Swarm Dinner - venue to be
announced.

BBUG AGM - Tuesday night 16th August 2022

LXRP have released an image of where the shared trail will run between Greensborough and Montmorency. It effectively follows Para Rd and the rail track. [\(link\)](#)



The response to this proposal has been, to say the least, mixed. The local FB page has been running hot with

adverse comment. Here is a sample of the comments:

Today LXP released their design for the Monty Shared Use Path, which fails to meet our needs. The design, as far as we can make out, fails our local community as it:

- Has NO ACCESS to and from Sherbourne Road;

- Has NO ACCESS to and from Railway Road;

- Effectively BYPASSES Briar Hill, leaving its residents with no direct, safe link to the Plenty River trail or the new path via either Railway Road or Sherbourne Road.

- Creates a PEDESTRIAN CROSSING on Para Road, even though there is an underpass right underneath it that is not being used instead! Not only is this a completely unnecessary safety risk, but it will create significant traffic jams on Para as the path will be expected to be regularly used.

- Provides NO DIRECT OFF ROAD ACCESS to the Plenty River trail.

Paterson Crescent - a one way street - is instead being used to connect the two trails together. Given the trail is meant to be 3m wide at all points, where this leaves the road access into residential areas and the running oval is questionable.

- THREATENS the 33 adjacent Station Road trees our community fought hard to save, as the bike path now occupies the Station Road car park that was removed from scope. LXP have confirmed a number of trees will need to be cut, however there are no more trees along the route left - other than on Station Road.

And as usual we are again being denied any opportunity to give feedback to improve the design as it all appears signed and sealed behind closed doors.

If you are concerned with this design that bypasses Briar Hill and leaves us with more safety issues, please raise your concerns directly to Vicki Ward and to LXP.

There is a 'consultation' process advertised by LXP that is purely a ticking the box activity. However if enough people use the questionnaire to raise concerns, maybe they will take notice.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/lxp-hurstbridge-line-duplication>



Occasionally images come along that really do carry so much content words would never replace the image. This photograph of our Prime Minister cycling with the President of Indonesia on bamboo bikes spoke volumes.

Bamboo bikes are very much volume bikes in Africa and Indonesia. If you are interested in one such review, just follow this [\(link\)](#). There are many longer reviews about bamboo bikes available on Youtube to keep you satisfied.



Wheely interesting

Meet Irene

Who rides with the Latte Group

An occasional series introducing you to Banyule BUG members

• First bike and your memory of early bike riding?

My first bike was a three-wheeler as shown in the photograph, and I loved it! I was four years of age and absolutely enjoyed exploring my world, (which was a pretty small one at that stage) and included the paths on our suburban block, and the playground at the end of our street in Surrey Hills. This introduced me to a lifetime of bike riding.



At 12 years old, it was with great excitement that three events coincided:

- I received my first two-wheeler bicycle (see photograph).
- Said bike enabled me to travel to and from my Secondary School, a distance of around 10k return. This really was a moment, captured on film, that I felt very grown up (see photograph).
- At 12 years of age, my friend Barbara and I embarked on a massive adventure that took us from Surrey Hills, along Burwood Highway to Ferntree Gully Rd, where we ate our picnic lunch under a very big gum tree. The return journey was approx. 30k! At this time in history, we mostly travelled past farms which then made way to bush land. And back in the day - as for many of us, the bike had a foot break and no gears.

• Current (or favourite) bike?

I still love and ride my Dutch style bike on small distance rides, including shopping; but on joining the Banyule realized I would need a little help on some much longer rides! So, I bought a Gazelle step through E bike, probably some would think it a bit girly, but I again love it! I don't use power all the time, (the rationale being I'll get fitter), but she sure helps me up those challenging hills, and battering headwinds. 🚲



• Favourite ride?

This is a more challenging question, because I enjoy immensely many of the rides in different ways, but I guess if I had to pick one, I would say the ride to Maling Road, Canterbury. What particularly turns me on is riding in the natural bush along the Main Yarra Trail, followed by the wonderful outer circle trail, which in dappled sunlight is stunning. And what's not to like about traversing the beautiful Canterbury gardens to reach our destination - coffee & at Alley Cat cafe.

• Favourite café on a ride?

All good - they all have coffee! ☕ But if I had to choose - Turners Bakery at Mernda does the heart good with its quirkiness, like "what's that round the corner in the garden!"

- **Finish this sentence 'Banyule BUG has** been a wonderful addition to my life. I would describe it as a winning trifecta – a variety of interesting rides, fun socializing with beautiful people, and great exercise.'
- **What are some of your other interests?**

Walking & talking with friends and family, reading, especially by the fire in winter ☐ ☐ dancing and listening to Classic FM (not at the same time!), creative knitting for all and sundry, mask making for our times, and some activities I'd loosely call artistic endeavours.

Plenty River Trail design finalised

Work on the new Plenty River Trail is expected to begin later this year following the finalisation of designs by Parks Victoria.

The \$19.3M project through Plenty River Gorge in Melbourne's North East will comprise 24km of trail: 19km of primary trail and 5km of secondary loop trails, with five lookouts, three new gully crossings and two new bridge crossings, with a third, the Maroondah Aqueduct Pipe Bridge to be refurbished.

The Trail is being developed in stages which will be progressively opened to the public late-2022 to mid-2024.

The final design report is here [LINK](#)

A Bridge to Far

Murray's Bridge Eltham.

As of writing this report (late June) still no bridge decking on site yet and contractor awaiting delivery of components delayed by international supply problems.

Hopefully bridge construction completed in 3-4 weeks, at this stage, then I guess approach works will be required.

Council and the contractor want to get this project completed as early as possible.

Until then, the very steep detour is still in place.



..... Update. Since writing the above, things have changed. Progress is once again underway. The bridge has been lifted into place and ancillary work is taking place. This is great to see. Perhaps two more weeks of the dreaded detour.



Banyule BUG Club President on FB

Catch up with our club Presidents remarks (and video) on FB as he extols the benefits of being a club member and the joy of riding a bike. [LINK](#)

Gipps St Ramp (steps)

While we are discussing cycling infrastructure. You might like to read about the long awaited removal of the Gipp St Steps. I can't remember the exact date when I stood at the top of the steps to hear from some politician speak about the plans to replace the very steep steps, but it must have been at least 15 years ago. Well, if you have retained your interest over the years, follow this link for the latest news. [LINK](#)

Banyule BUG Membership

It was Napoleon Bonaparte that said, "An army marches on its stomach". Well to paraphrase the great man. A bicycle club rides on money. Our club is a great club to cycle with. The weekly rides we attend can be measured in many ways, personal enjoyment, health benefits and much more. Well, to function as a club, money is needed for a host of things – including replacing the two way handset I lost on a ride (sorry John). To this end, here is a word from our treasurer.

B-BUG folk,

"The time has come," The Walrus said, *"to talk of many things/Of shoes and ships and sealing wax/ And renewing your annual membership."* (courtesy of Lewis Carroll)

Dreaming days indeed! When treasurers enjoy a cascade of images behind slumbering eyelids - torrents of coins, gales of notes, an unending blitz of electronic transfers. *Ding ding ding, my heart does sing.....*

Enough Treasurerly fantasies - let's get down to business. The new membership year starts on 1 July 2022 and runs through to June 30 2023. I know you're all busting to be part of this fabulous party but, first, where does the money get spent?

An honest question, deserving of an honest answer. Most goes towards the club's third-party insurance, currently some \$2600/annum. There are also regular small charges for maintaining the website, a post office box, incorporation fee and minor purchases, eg, replacement CB handsets. The fabulous B-BUG jersey stocks need renewing occasionally but we should be able to hold off until 2023/24. Full financial details will be given at the August AGM.

An increase in the insurance premium led to small increases in our annual fees as agreed at the last AGM, the first for many years. For 2022/23 these will be:

Membership renewal \$35/rider, \$10 social
New member. \$35/rider if applying Jul-December. \$20 Jan-Jun

How can you renew? Very easy; thought you'd never ask:

1. Online, in two stages. First go to the B-BUG [renewals/new members](#) page and click on the link. You'll complete a very short form and then move to stage 2. Importantly please go through the full form (only a little longer) if **any** of your contact details have changed in the last year - residential address, mobile or email, emergency contact name and phone number. Very necessary for staying in touch.
2. Make an electronic transfer to the club's bank account **BSB 063 222 Account 1018 1606**. Please ensure you identify the transfer with your name and purpose.
3. We can also accept cash and cheques but no credit/debit cards. And definitely no Bitcoin!

And that's all, folks. You'll get an email acknowledgement after which you're more than hot to trot - all good for another 12 months! Please contact me if you have any questions or problems.

Cheers,
John Perkins



Plenty River Trail

Work is happening along the Plenty River Trail around Montmorency. The decking on a number of bridges is being renewed. The old decking was in very bad repair and long overdue for renewal. However, the new decking is the same type as the old – transverse wooden slabs. One can only hope they last longer than the ones they replace. Thanks to Les for the image.

E-Bikes go to war

When we go on our regular rides, perhaps the worst things we encounter are angry car drivers, unleashed dogs etc. These ebike riders in the Ukraine encounter T72 Russian tanks. This report details the highly creative and very functional use electric bikes play in the current conflict raging in the Ukraine. I will stick to the Yarra Trail any day. [Link](#)



..... and to finish with. This striking photograph taken by Kevin Ballam on one of his bike rides around the time of the winter solstice holds the promise of better riding days ahead as the days grow longer.



Now, as always, your contributions to our newsletter are much appreciated and valued. So send them to Allan Garbutt allang@bigpond.net.au I can deal with most formats, but try to keep the image bytes size small.

Now one more interesting read from Randall about his ride around Canberra – enjoy.

Safe cycling to all.

Canberra, Cycling, It's great AND a brilliant Zoo Who Knew?

Ride report from Randall

A recent road trip took me from doing the 100km Bendigo Classic, to Bright and a climb up Mt Hotham, onto Jindabyne for the Snowy Classic, a fantastic and HARD 110km ride and finally a few days in Canberra.

First stop was Bendigo. Saturday we went to see the Elvis exhibition at the Bendigo Art Gallery. Very interesting and the exhibition continues until 17th July 2022 if this has appeal.



The good wife at the entrance



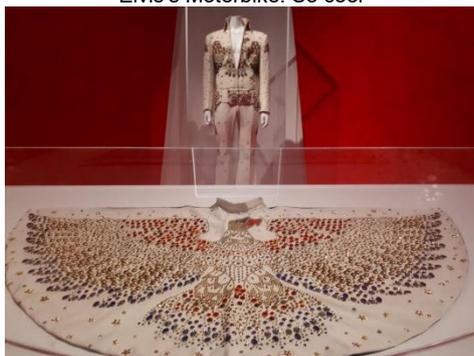
Elvis's Motorbike. So cool



Some of Elvis's costumes



Put simply, I want his shirt. So cool 2



The White Eagle.



Simple pic. Says a lot

Next day was the Bendigo Classic. This was my third official participation.

A number of BUGs also took part. Sally, Bob, John Pe and Brett did the 60km option whilst Andrew, Jack and I did the 100km option. Andrew and I averaged 27.1kph for the 100kms.



Memorabilia at the Velo Café, Bendigo



Pre ride training at the Velo Café



Andrew H, Jack M and me, ready to go

All successfully completed the challenge and we enjoyed a meet up, some food and a beer or two in the gardens, adjacent to the Bendigo Town Hall.

It is hard to describe the feeling of achievement, euphoria, and pride after doing a ride, of any distance, and sharing it with your fellow riders.

Next stop was Bright. I think all of us have visited Bright as it is a great cycling destination. From picturesque trails, mountain biking to riding the high mountains, it has it all.

Andrew H and I had planned to meet at Harrietville to tackle Mt Hotham. It is an iconic Australian climb; I've never done it before so was very apprehensive. Very. BUT, it was one of the best rides I have ever done. It was hard work but I did it.



Let's be honest, that view is frightening



Let's be honest, that view is spectacular

After Bright was a fabulous drive to Jindabyne for the inaugural Snowy Classic.

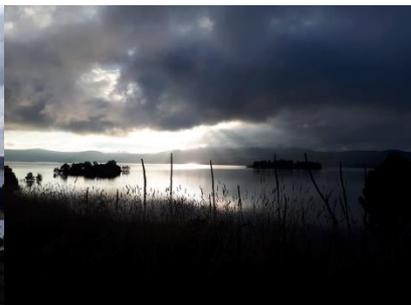
Originally spelt Jindaboine, the Aboriginal word for Valley, the original Jindabyne was "drowned" in the creation of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme. The current Jindabyne was originally created for workers on the scheme and is now the gateway to the many attractions of the Kosciuszko / Snowy region.

Sir Pawal Strezelecki, a Polish explorer who explored vast areas of NSW, Vic & Tasmania named Mt Kosciuszko in honour of Polish leader and patriot Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

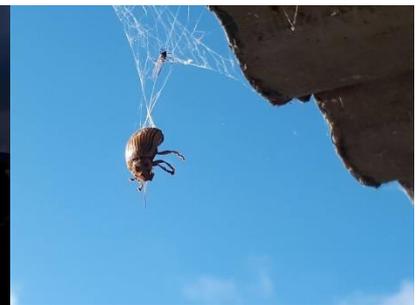
I would suggest "googling" these guys, very interesting and also the Snowy history.



Lake Jindabyne, from our Motel



Atmospheric. Beautiful. Bit Chilly



1 BUG down. Hope I stay upright tomorrow



An impressive part of the World



Zoom in, there is a Roo in there!



The Count Paul Strezelecki statue

So Saturday arrives. Snowy Classic time. This was a 108km ride (there was also a 170km option, not on my watch!!!!) that takes in the “infamous” Beloka hill.

Well over 1,000 riders lined up for the two ride options. This was thrilling. Just before Beloka I was averaging 29.4kph. Then Beloka hit me. Short, Sharp and Brutal, if you consider 3km short. The worst is the start. You hit 20% soon after seeing a wall of road. At some point you get a little respite, only 7% and then double digit %’s smack you in the face again. Beloka is rated as one of Australia’s toughest climbs. Short, Sharp, Brutal. Yep.

So after 108km my final average was 26.5kph, finished in 4:03:06 and rode over 1,500VM and out of the 485 starters in the 108km ride I finished in 60th position.



Did it



Jindabyne Brewing. A great find



Post ride dinner at Jindabyne Brewing

After the Snowy Classic we headed to Canberra, primarily to see the “Shakespeare to Winehouse” exhibition. This was around 100 portraits on loan from the London National Portrait Gallery. And it was fantastic.

Prior to that I did a few rides, the first being “The 6 Peaks of Canberra”. This circular route was 90km, and an elevation gain of 1,600VM. Unfortunately I had to record this in two stages due to a recording problem but you can get the feel of the ride.



First Peak – Telstra Tower on the top of Black Mountain.

Probably the second hardest climb which hits 10% on a few occasions. Situated North West from the city the Tower is a highly visible presence from many parts of Canberra.



The view from the top is great looking toward Lake Burley Griffin. The National Carillon is to the left and Parliament House to the right.



Second Peak – Dairy Farmer’s Hill, located in the National Arboretum

The National Arboretum is more or less west of the city & was created after the area was burned out due to the 2001 and 2003 Canberra bushfires. After a nationwide competition the winning design proposed 100 forests and 100 gardens focussing on threatened, rare and symbolic trees from around the world. Planting began in 2005 and continue ongoing.



It is an intriguingly atmospheric place, quite beautiful actually with two distinct buildings, in the centre and to the right with Dairy Farmers Hill to the left of the 1st pic. The 2nd pic is from Dairy Farmers Hill. You can see the Telstra Tower to the left.

Third Peak – Mt Stromlo

The first telescope installed on Mt Stromlo was the Oddie telescope in September 1911.

Like Dairy Farmers Hill, Mt Stromlo was devastated by the 2003 bushfires which destroyed or damaged much of the observatory.



From the base looking up to Mt Stromlo where the Observatory is the headquarters of the ANU research school of Astronomy and Astrophysics. It is a nice climb and you ride past a lot of buildings and homes where a number of staff members live.

Fourth Peak – Red Hill

Red Hill is south of the city centre and was gazetted as a suburb in 1928. Although a relatively short climb it offers great views of many Canberra icons.

Red Hill is a key geographic element of the central Canberra design axis.

At the base of Red Hill you will find Melbourne Ave which leads to Parliament House.



To the left of the tree is the Captain Cook Memorial Jet located in Lake Burley Griffin.

To the right, partly obscured, is New Parliament House.

And further right is Anzac Parade which leads to the Australian War Memorial.

The hill behind is Mt Ainslie. More on that later, but just look at it. I was and was scared!

Fifth Peak – Mt Pleasant

Isn't it odd that we have so many "lumps" called Mt Pleasant? For cyclists anyway!!!!

Located in the North East Mt Pleasant overlooks the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College at Duntroon.

And gives another fantastic view of Canberra, from a new perspective.

The memorial is dedicated to all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

A relatively easy climb which I started by going thru the ADF Academy.

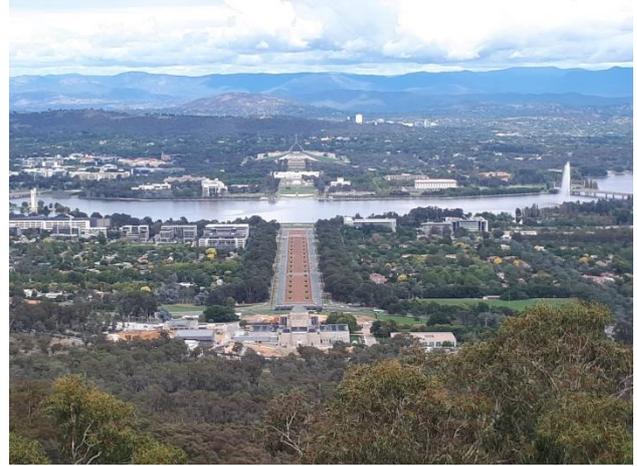


To the left of the canon on the right, to its left is the Water Jet and to its right, just past the small tree is the Telstra Tower. This gives a good perspective of the loop I am doing.

Sixth Peak – Mt Ainslie

Mt Ainslie is the northernmost point of a land axis planned by Walter Burley Griffin. It also provides the most iconic view of Canberra. It takes your breath away.

And so does the climb. Length: 2.9km. Average slope: 7.1%. Maximum slope: 13%.



The first pic is from the top of Mt Ainslie. But I have already ridden up the thing, so a descent like this is GOLD. The second looks over the Australian War Memorial, Anzac Parade, old Parliament House and new Parliament House. To the far left the National Carillon, to the far right Captain Cook Memorial Jet. Yep an iconic view.

Day 2

So yesterday was a tough ride. And what do you plan after doing six lumpy "lumps"?

You plan a flat ride and you cannot get much flatter than riding around Lake Burley Griffin. And thank God for that!

This was a 52km ride which only had 600VM which I did at an av of 23.5kph. I did two laps of the section to the right of the bridge. Why? Because it was fun.



Scrivener Dam over flow. Dairy Farmers Hill in the background



From Parliament House looking over old Parliament House up Anzac Parade to the Australian War Memorial and Mt Ainslie.



Telstra Tower, Captain Cook Memorial Water Jet and the National Carillon

My riding is done. What do we do? We do ZOO. This is one of the best Zoo I've been to.

Opened in May 1990 the National Zoo and Aquarium struggled until it was purchased by the Tindale family. A vision and investment in world class enclosures was in full swing and the Zoo was beginning to give the "residents" a great home. The 2001 and 2003 bushfires were close to causing major problems but fortunately the Zoo escaped relatively unscathed. Privately owned, the owners live onsite, this is a world class Zoo where the "residents" have homes that they deserve.

